

THE OBSERVER



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New Computer Center Policies

By Allison Glidewell, Staff Writer

Recent changes in Computer Center policy regarding tech support have left many students confused and grumbling. Upon returning to campus this fall, upperclassmen discovered that they could no longer take their computers to the Center for network installation. Rather, they were given instructions to complete the process manually. Currently, only freshmen are able to bring their computers in for installation. Last year all students were able to receive installation.

Many students are puzzled by this allegedly sudden change in policy. Sophomore Jean Monfort commented, "I don't understand... It seems like they were all of a sudden like 'we're not going to help students anymore.'" Junior Brian Bugajski voiced similar sentiments: "It seems unprofessional to cut service without any warning. I commend the Techies for taking over." Most freshmen seem content with their network access; however, freshmen and upperclass-

men are frustrated with the Computer Center's lack of tech support for non-network problems.

In an address to freshman leaders in August, Director of Computer Services Matt Muller cited a shortage in personnel as the main reason for the change in policy. According to Muller, the Computer Center is backed up during the first few weeks of school, and the influx of computers from students only adds to the back-up. As a result, the Computer Center decided to take only computers from freshmen this year. Next year the policy will change again, and all students will need to install the network on their own.

However, students still have resources for tech support. The Computer Center still will help students with network problems. For other problems, students can turn to the brand new student support group, Techies. According to senior Chris Repp, "A load of stress has been placed upon the Computer Center...so [Kenny Shumard] called up the ...computer guys [students] at SJC



Computer Systems Analyst David DeLauro working in the Computer Center.

and asked them to unite for the good of Laurinaitis, Chris Kelleher, Chris Repp, and Joseph Robertson. Appointments can be set up through the website (<http://techies.saintjoe.edu/>) or by contacting individual members either by e-mail or phone.

SJC Choir Performs With Award-Winning Christian Singer John Michael Talbot

By Becky Scherer, Editor in Chief

On October 19th, the Saint Joseph's College choir performed in a concert at St. Mary's Cathedral in Lafayette, Indiana. The concert featured the choir, a vocal ensemble, and award-winning Christian singer and songwriter John Michael Talbot. Talbot has recorded 45 albums, won nine Christian music awards including the Gospel Music Association's Dove Award, and is recognized as the number one recording artist for Catholic music, selling more than four million records worldwide.

The choir, along with Coordinator of Campus Ministry and Cho-

ral Director Ary Nelson, searched for opportunities for exposure within the local diocese and, by networking with various contacts, came across the Talbot opportunity. "This was a wonderful opportunity for the choir to perform at the Cathedral and do something no previous [SJC] choir has done. We needed a challenge, and this event certainly gave us something to work towards," said Nelson.

Talbot, accompanied by the group ensemble, performed six pieces of original religious music and approximately seven original solo pieces. He paused between songs to



The SJC Choir with John Michael Talbot. Photo courtesy of Ary Nelson and Dr. Chattin.

relate aspects of his life and music to the audience, comprised of roughly 800 people, and at one point to bless a sneezing choir member.

"It was very touching," said senior English/creative writing major Jen Zak. "It was a privilege to work with John Michael Talbot and the

other choirs at such a poignant event. I thought it was especially nice to see Dr. Mills and Dr. Chattin present at the concert," she said.

This event was sponsored by the Office of Worship in conjunction with St. Mary's Cathedral in Lafayette.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR
ET CETERA
PUMA POETRY

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Three separate personal experiences in the last two weeks produced a renewed awareness in my life, thus deserving recognition and further reflection. First, in Core discussion, members of the class engaged in a semi-lively debate about the necessity of being poor to be saved, as Jesus instructed. Second, I actually attended Mass last Sunday, only to hear the Gospel story about the rich man who wanted to obtain eternal life. Finally, I attended a career fair last week, not involving young entrepreneurs kissing the you know what of corporate world representatives, attempting to secure a high-paying job and future financial security, but instead, involving young activists hoping to secure a volunteer, internship (often non-paid) or employment opportunity with a peace and justice organization upon graduation from college.

These experiences address the same fundamental questions: Did Jesus really mean it when he said, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor" (Matthew 19:21)? What is our role in the world and relationship to the poor, as followers of Jesus?

For centuries, Christians have been challenged by this first proposition. We certainly baptize our newborns, as Jesus commanded (Matthew

28:19). Most of us follow the traditional commandments pretty well, avoiding adultery, murder, and stealing. But what about selling our possessions? In class, among peers, within Church walls, and even in my own mind, I hear the same interpretation: "Well, we do not really have to give up our possessions and sell them to the poor. Jesus did not mean that literally. We only need to recognize that material possessions are not that important in the grand scheme of life." This attitude allows us to live comfortably with what we have, instead of critically analyzing the necessity of our luxuries. This compromising position distorts the entire message of the Gospel. Jesus calls his followers into radical conversion and discipleship.

How do we approach and confront such an overwhelming expectation? It seems that we have a responsibility to educate ourselves to avoid ignorance by "turning a blind eye" to the manifold injustices present in the world. In an article from *The Black World Today*, Bill Fletcher, Jr., contends that the sweatshop manufacturing of goods under horrendous working conditions "exists in large part due to the ignorance and/or silence of the international community. Most of us care not to ask under what conditions our clothes are

manufactured, or what it truly means that jeans are stonewashed. It is often more comfortable to act as if the clothes appear out of nowhere, through magic perhaps, and find themselves on hangers in stores." This testimony of silent compliance serves as just one example of the complexity of injustice in the world.

As college students with energy and vision, we have numerous opportunities to address social justice issues in the world. Upon graduation, students can get involved in organizations such as Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, or Jesuit Volunteer Corps. These non-profit agencies address education, health, business, agriculture, and environmental issues worldwide, and more specific concerns such as the homeless, the unemployed, refugees, people with AIDS, the elderly, street youth, abused women and children, the mentally ill, and the developmentally disabled. If you are headed to the work world, enter a service profession and give aid to those who need the most help. These are individuals that Jesus lived for and spent his time with. Career decisions like these reveal a commitment to the poor and the words of Jesus, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor."

-- Luke Hanson, Senior

Two Men, One Album

By Phil Schroeder, Staff Writer

An appropriate title to this review could have also been "Two Albums, One Package," as that is indeed the case. The new offering by Outkast, "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below," is in reality two albums in one. The group's two artists, Antwan "Big Boi" Patton and Andre "3000" Benjamin, have released, in essence, two separate solo albums in one double-disc set. While this sounds odd, it works out very nicely for the most part, as the two discs are almost total opposites; in that sense it works much better than if the tracks were chopped and thrown on one disc. I've decided that, in light of these two offerings being so different, it would be best if I reviewed each on their own.

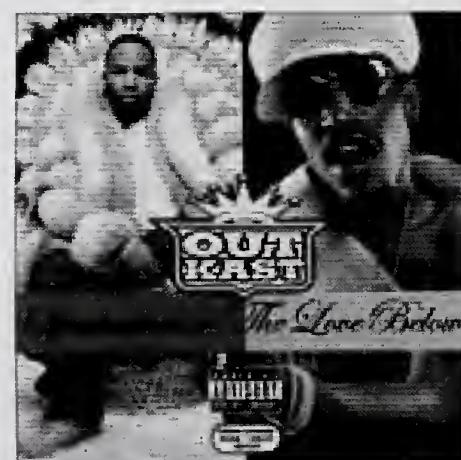
Big Boi - Speakerboxxx

Someone I know told me that he likes Outkast because "it's fun rap." If this disc is anything, it's fun. In one track, Big Boi gives his baby son "Bamboo" a chance to rap, letting him rip out some lyrics from the group's previous single, "The Whole World." It actually fits nicely with the rest of the disc. In all, this disc plays much like the other Outkast albums with its catchy hooks and singable choruses. Relative to other recent offerings, this disc contains some of the best rap-

ping I've heard in a while. Big Boi and his "guest rappers" are more or less flawless in their delivery of lines dealing with things like going to church, hitting the clubs, and the media's role in war.

Andre 3000 - The Love Below

While it would probably be unfair to say that this is a themed disc in the sense that The Who's "Tommy" or Pink Floyd's "The Wall" are, this disc does indeed follow a central theme: love. This being the case, Dre decided to try some different techniques to get his message across; there is relatively no rapping on this disc. Instead you'll find a lot of guitar and piano, as well as melodic singing. I found that oftentimes the lyrics get in the way of some very well-thought-out tunes. That being said, these "experiments," if you will, are easy on the ears and did the trick for me. While I liked the companion disc better, this one is definitely worth a permanent spot in your listening rotation. As a parting note, if you don't think that the tune "My Favorite Things" being set to a techno percussion track sounds like a good idea, I recommend you check this disc out and allow it to prove you wrong.



The Observer
staff would like
to thank

Jinny 41

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Attention Art Lovers:



Don't forget about the Measure magazine-cover contest! All forms of artwork are accepted: from computer graphics to drawings, and from paintings to sculptures.

For more information, contact:

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PAWS:

...to the wonderful SJC
Janitorial Staff.

...to the women's soccer team
for their six consecutive wins.



CLAWS:

...to the person(s) who wrote
degrading remarks about
women on the Puma Women
Today cafeteria table tents.

Busy Student's Retreat: Taking Time Out For God

By Katie Davet, Staff Writer

Would you like to take an hour a day to put your life into focus? Beginning on October 12 and ending on October 15, seven students took an hour out of their days to put their lives into focus by attending the Busy Student's Retreat. The retreat was geared towards students who have busy schedules and need some time to slow down to look at how they can develop a better relationship with God. The retreat was open to all SJC students.

Before beginning the retreat, students had to choose one of three religious directors: Fr. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S; Campus Minister Ary Nelson; and Brother Tim Hemm, C.P.P.S. All three were extremely pleased to watch the participants grow in their spiritual faith. "The Busy Student's Retreat is an excellent format for students to talk about their own personal journeys and reflect on what's happening in their lives at the present," said Hemm.

While meeting with their religious directors, each student had to meditate for 30 minutes a day on a selected scripture passage. The students were also given the option to reflect on personal matters of their choice. After meditating on the selected passage, the participants met with their directors for a 30-minute discussion. At the end of the retreat, a mass was celebrated in which all the participants were encouraged to attend.

The retreat's purpose is to allow busy students to step back, slow down and look at life in a different perspective. "I think the most valuable aspect of the Busy Student Retreat was that it gave me one hour a day to just sit and reflect on things that are going on in my life and the lives around me," said junior participant Erin Diener. "I really enjoyed taking time out for myself and talking with my spiritual guide. We just sat back and reflected on the readings for the day and talked about how they related to our own experiences. It was really nice to take the time to sit and relax from all that has been going around me," concluded Diener.

The next Busy Student's Retreat will take place in February of 2004.

SJC Holds CTA Department Alumni Career Night

By Becky Scherer, Editor in Chief

Recently the Saint Joseph's College Communication and Theatre Arts Department held an alumni career night featuring panelists of SJC alumni from the fields of theatre, television, radio and communications to answer the career-related questions of current communication and theatre arts students. "We wanted to show the students that there is a life after college," Associate Professor of Communication Fred Berger said, "and that Pumas can be and are successful in it."

Panelists included Kelly Lucito, '90, in the area of communication; in the area of television, Reggie Edwards, '98; Mark Orlando, '88, in the area of radio; and in the area of theatre, Brian Nahas, '83. The four alumni advised students to get involved in activities pertaining to their career choices. "SJC allowed me to get involved so much earlier and so much deeper because of the small atmosphere," Edwards recalls. "Potential employers noticed that fact and were impressed. I had something that no one [applying from a larger school] had."

Lucito agreed, saying, "I received more experience over four years at SJC than I would have had if I gone to a state school that would have only allowed me two years of hands-on experience."

Orlando suggested the students stay open-minded and willing to try anything, all the while remembering, "Paying your dues is just something you've got to do: start with small markets and be patient but persistent to make your

way up."

Edwards added, "There will be lots of opportunities you'll think you're ready for, but you need to accept it when you're passed over for someone with more experience."

Nahas informed the students that "sometimes interpersonal communication skills and experience gain more points with an employer than a grade point average," while Orlando reminded them that "who you know will get you into a job, but what you know will keep your job."

An annual event sponsored by the Communication and Theatre Arts Department in conjunction with the Mass Communication Department and senior seminar, this event is important for the programs' majors because it gives the students an idea of what is expected as a professional in their fields. "The purpose of this event was to have our seniors interact with successful CTA (Communication and Theatre Arts) and mass comm. alumni who were able to give advice about working in the real world," said Assistant Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts John Rahe. "We invited all CTA majors and minors to attend if they wished so they were able to start getting insights into the possibilities of what they can do with their degrees post graduation."

The panelists helped draw Sarah Bozenda, sophomore communication and theatre arts major, to the realization that it is common to jump into a career right out of college. "I feel more confident," she said, "knowing that I can actually make a career out of something that I love doing."

SJC Cafeteria Offers New Look and Feel for Hungry Pumas

By Tony Salati, Staff Writer

Most of the SJC community can remember what the cafeteria was like before renovations began: two main meal lines, a pizza bar, dessert bar, salad bar, sandwich bar, and miscellaneous bar; different leadership, darker colors, and, of course, the chili pepper lights. Over the last two years, the Caf has undergone a transformation and now has a very different look: a grill that provides fries, hamburgers, and grilled cheese daily, a main meal line, a vegetarian line, a specialty line, a pizza line, a pasta line, a dessert line, a salad line; a totally brighter look and feel, a special reservation dining room, and a more service-oriented attitude.

These changes have certainly caught the eyes of the campus. Sophomore Traver Griffin loves the new organization. "I think it helped a lot when they put the divider in between the grill and the usual dinner line. The new look is nice, and makes it look a lot bigger," he said.

Sophomore Marissa Klebs adds, "I think that the new attitude they have toward service is great. They want to hear what we have to say; they want us to walk out of the Caf happy with the service." She admits that while the new organization and look took some getting used to, the end result is "much better than what we had last year."

Junior Cortny Woodruff adds, "The service is great and everyone is very helpful." However, the new setup has left her a little disappointed. "The layout could be better. I eat salads everyday and I know that other people do, too, and I wish there was more room for the lines."

Housing and Residence Life Area Director Kate Sass feels that "the Dining Services Employees are incredible men and women who truly exemplify service and commitment to SJC. They are hardworking and always willing to go the extra mile and give the pickle." She adds, "The look and organization of the cafeteria is very appealing."

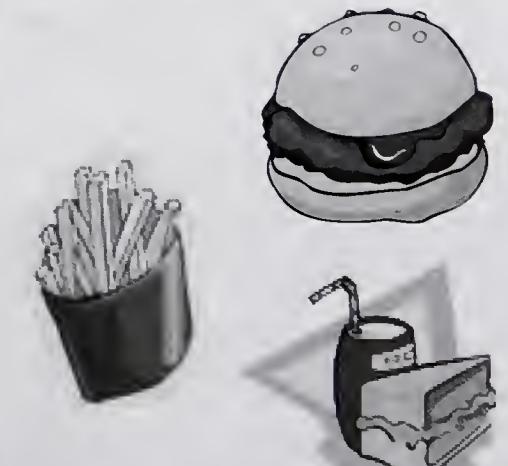
It appears that things are moving in the right direction in the SJC caf.



Above: Father Stang partakes in the renovated pizza bar.



Left: Senior Dan Hoffman enjoys the offerings of the main meal line.



Questions or comments about the caf's new look? Have a great idea for the caf? Drop off a comment card during your next meal (boxes are located by the conveyer belt for tray disposal), or contact Eric Garriott at ericg@saintjoe.edu



Danny Waclaw and his younger brother, Patrick, participate in the human bowling game during SJC's Little Sibs' Weekend.

Little Sibs' Weekend

By Danny Waclaw, Staff Writer

For a little under a year, my brother had been anticipating Little Sibs' Weekend at SJC. This is mainly thanks to my admissions counselor who decided that Patrick (my eleven-year old sibling) needed to know this so that I would eventually be forced to attend SJC or at least some other school with a program for little siblings. I was hesitant at first about the whole deal; however, the actual weekend turned out to be a blast.

After our parents left us, we headed off to the cafeteria, which supposedly had a carnival theme though nothing seemed to show this save someone in a small, multicolored clown wig and some freaky ambient circus music. (Though this seems to be stated in a rather abrasive manner, my brother and I found immense humor in it.) I'm assuming my brother enjoyed his lunch since his mouth was full most of the time.

Following lunch was the

"Rumble and Tumble Fun Fair" in the ballroom. The fair consisted mainly of arts/crafts but also included a ball pit, a make-your-own-slime stand, and human bowling. Since Patrick was a little older than most of siblings on campus, he immediately headed for the human bowling. In human bowling, the child was strapped into a huge steel ball, then rolled around to knock six gigantic bowling pins. Needless to say, everyone I saw rolling around enjoyed this activity profusely.

Because Patrick only went on the human bowling apparatus, we had quite a bit of time on our hands before dinner; therefore, Patrick decided that he wanted to actually go bowling, too. After this, we relaxed around campus and then headed to the pizza party, the purpose of which was to determine the best pizza in town. Several restaurants were represented, and everyone seemed to be satisfied, although by this time many were starting to get very tired.

The party was followed by a

scavenger hunt, and being the brave souls we are, Patrick and I decided to participate. We were given half an hour to find a plethora of "everyday" items. Patrick and I searched everywhere but were only able to find some dirty shoelaces, a used straw, a greasy pizza box, and an edition of *The Observer*, among others. We managed to find about half of the items on the list. It was obvious that we were going to lose, so we set our heights lower and shot for the booby prize; unfortunately, we weren't bad enough to win it.

After this, we wandered back to the room for a bit to relax before we headed to see *Daddy Day Care*. Though I had seen the movie already, Patrick had not; we both enjoyed it very much, and it was very well attended. All in all, the weekend turned out to be a very big success; my only complaint is that there weren't enough activities for older siblings to enjoy. Fortunately for us, though, we made the best of the weekend and found it to be very amusing.

Rent: A "Seize the Day" Musical

By Melissa Alba, Staff Writer

525,600. What is this number? No, it's not a statistic. 525,600 minutes...How do you measure a year? How about love? That is the question addressed repeatedly in Jonathan Larson's musical, *Rent*. *Rent* is about being young in New York, along with being brave, scared, in love, in trouble...and still having hope for today and faith in tomorrow.

Based on Puccini's *La Bohème*, *Rent* is the story of love and loyalty among starving artists in New York's East Village. In Puccini's version, his Parisian bohemians are afflicted with tuberculosis—the entire opera takes place under the specter of this ghastly illness. For Jonathan Larson, the modern equivalent was clearly AIDS, which had struck down several of his closest friends. However, Larson refused to let his

story be overcome by the hopelessness and despair often associated with the disease. Songs like "Seasons of Love," "Light My Candle," and "I'll Cover You Reprise" are thought-provoking and sad, while

signal for an "AZT break," and suddenly they realize that they're both HIV-positive.

Rent is an emotional roller-coaster ride and goes from upbeat to downright melodramatic

along the way. It is an altogether astounding show. What makes it so amazing is that never once does the viewer care that Maureen and Joanne are lesbians, that Angel is really a man and with Collins, that Mimi is an S&M dancer, or that a majority of the characters have AIDS. Everyone is treated as human beings.

I can't say I liked it as much as I enjoyed *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*, but I enjoyed watching the drama unfold before me.

A memorable line from the show: "There's only us; there's only this. Forget regret or life is yours to miss. No other road, no other way...No day but today."



songs like "Tango Maureen," "Contact," and "Rent" are fast and full of life. There is a moment in which Roger, a struggling rock musician, and Mimi, a heroin addict and S&M dancer, are having a lover's quarrel when their beepers go off and each takes out a bottle of pills. It's the

Styling Sense: Halloween Fashions



Jen Zak
Columnist

Halloween is almost upon us, but if you are still struggling for a costume idea don't worry, there's still time to come up with something great. This year, I would like to challenge you to try something more than a devil, angel, or vampire. No matter what your plans are for the big night, defining yourself with a distinct outfit and standing out from the crowd will make the night memorable and fun. After all, Halloween is a time to pretend to be something you are not, so it's ok to go a little overboard.

If you are going out in a group, perhaps think of doing a group costume. For girls of the eighties, dress up like the Rainbow Brite Gang, or have each person be a different female superhero such as Wonder Woman, She-Ra, Supergirl, or Catwoman. Other group costumes include Charlie's Angels, Josie and the Pussycats, or the *Moulin Rouge* girls.

For the guys, find some long wigs and leather pants and go as a heavy metal hair band like Guns N' Roses, AC/DC, or KISS. If the Shire is calling you home, throw on some hairy feet and a tunic and travel with friends as the Hobbits from Lord of the Rings.

Ideas for couples and other groups of two include Austin Powers and Felicity Shagwell, Hans and Franz from Saturday Night Live, the Spartan Cheerleaders, or Roxie and Velma from *Chicago*.

When putting together your costume, be creative! It is too expensive to spend \$50 on a costume you will only wear once. For the 80's hair bands, buy inexpensive plain shirts from Wal-Mart and decorate them yourself. For capes and Hobbit cloaks, buy one or two yards of your preferred fabric and tie around the neck. Spartan Cheerleaders just need sweatshirts with "Spartans" written diagonally and pom-poms, and Hans and Franz wear gray sweat suits stuffed with pillows in the chest. Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

The Ladybug Ladybird Beetle Problem

By Joe Larson, Staff Writer

If you live on the planet Earth, you might have noticed in recent weeks that it is almost impossible to breathe without inhaling ladybugs. The small, round insects- which undoubtedly trace their origins to outer space or Satan- fill the air, actively seeking out students light enough to carry back to the mother hive. The ladybugs already cover every door, window, and wall on campus and are steadily making their way into the dorms, eager to feast on human flesh. Over time, they will drive us from our homes and occupy our cities, assuming our identities and filling our previous roles on the newly renamed Planet of the Ladybugs. The situation looks bleak, but the coming of winter brings with it the possibility of a ceasefire with the ladybug overlord and a chance for a counteroffensive during the spring campaign season.

Fortunately, there are people in the world who actually know what they are talking about. Dr. Neal Haskall is the Assistant Professor of Biology at Saint Joseph's College and nationally renowned forensic entomologist. According to Dr. Haskall- and contrary to the lies that I have worked so hard to insert into this article- the ladybugs are not part of a well-planned attempt to bring about the apocalypse. Instead, they exhibit no communal or hive behavior, and they harbor no malicious intentions against humanity- probably. Ladybugs are more correctly known as ladybird beetles, a term that has long been resented by both common beetles and Lyndon Johnson's wife. The variety of ladybird beetle that currently plagues the Midwest has its origins in the Orient. It was introduced in North America around the turn of the twentieth century.

Want to write features? Email Natalie at nli4438@saintjoe.edu

Mikus)

delivered a witty and hysterical performance to a Christina Aguilera song. For me, this was the highlight of the night, as the acts, with a few exceptions, went downhill from there.

Tim Hayes danced provocatively on stage to the Weird Al's "I'm Fat;" two males gave an eye-raising performance to Brian Adam's "Summer of '69," complete with dry-humping the stage. Three girls dressed in rather skimpy outfits danced suggestively to "Like A Virgin" and "Hollywood" by Madonna.

There were a few acts that kept their performances relatively clean. A group of girls dressed as the Spice Girls also performed, and actually delivered a rather realistic impersonation of the group. Two guys performed ballads, but even then one of them decided taking

off his shirt was necessary to deliver an energetic performance. While the contest did not consist solely of sex, it was marred by the distasteful performances of the overwhelming majority. Sophomore Amy Luksus commented, "The Dance Team Rejects were funny, but many of the other acts kind-of ruined the rest of the event for me. They were too offensive to be funny."

At the end of the contest, the awards were announced. The Spice Girls took first place, the Dance Team Rejects took second, and the Madonna impersonators took third.

To be blunt, the things that kept me from merely getting up and walking out half an hour into the night were the following: the fact that I had an article to write on the contest, and the performance by the campus a cappella group,

Stuff

John Ligda
Columnist



Did you know that the free, easy, and relaxed lifestyle that we experience today at SJC was only a mere dream for those men who were students here in the mid 1950's and early 1960's? First, I say men because the College did not admit females as full-time students until the late 1960's. Before the College began admitting women, life on this campus was very institutionalized.

Men were segregated in dorms by classes. Freshmen lived in Drexel and Gaspar (since demolished) Halls, Merlini, Seifert, and the Power House. Sometime in the mid-'50's, men ceased living in the Science and old Administration building. Sophomores lived in the newly constructed Halas and Gallagher Halls, juniors in Noll, and seniors in Bennett. The veterans lived in Washburn Hall in town, the White House where the Jasper County Youth Center now stands, and Scharf House on the back road. A Precious Blood Priest and a Prefect (old-school term for Resident Assistant) lived in each dorm. The Prefect was responsible (as now) for maintaining order and discipline in each residence hall and was responsible for distributing students' weekly Mass cards.

What were Mass cards? Well, back then, each student was required to fulfill his Sunday obligation to attend Mass. He received a weekly card and was responsible for passing the card into the ushers at Mass each Sunday. If a student went home for

any reason, he was required to turn the card into the Dean of Students before he could sign-out for the weekend. It was assumed that when the student went home, his parents would make him go to church on Sunday.

Freshmen and sophomores had a lights-out policy. The power in freshman and sophomore dorms was literally turned off at 11:30 on the weekdays and midnight on the weekends. Only juniors and seniors had all-night lights. The lights-out policy was partially an effort to conserve electricity and to encourage students to get the proper hours of sleep. Prefects were also responsible for the nightly "bed-check." They went room-by-room checking to see that students were in their beds. Violators were given an initial warning; repeat offenders were disciplined by the Dean of Students. Study hours were in effect beginning at 9:00 on weeknights. Each student had to be in his room studying or in the library at that time.

Back then, there was just one phone per hallway. No one had his own phone in his room. There were no TVs in the rooms, but the College would allow for each room to have a radio, which had to be supplied by the student.

What effect did all of this have on the student body? Well, in those days it was common to see freshmen classes of up to 400 students. By the time the class of seniors graduated, there were as few as 120 in the class. Many freshmen did not return for their sophomore years due to the rigid academics and discipline policies. Those who demanded more of a "party" atmosphere transferred to public colleges such as Ball State. Those who "stuck-it-out" were rewarded with a valued degree and a lasting appreciation of the effect of discipline on their formative years here at Saint Joseph's College.

So... students here think they have it rough now?

Lip Sync: Reviewer Says, "Sex Sells"

By Katie Grgic, Staff Writer

I went into the SUB-sponsored Lip Sync Contest with a relatively open mind; granted, I was praying that this would not be a sexually charged debacle like last year's Miss Puma Contest, but I believed it would be a fun and rather humorous evening. To be succinct, I could not have been more wrong. While a few acts were either tame or clever, the vast majority were raunchy, offensive displays of sexual suggestion. To sum up the evening in two words: sex sells.

The night started off with a rather mild performance to Sir Mixalot's "Baby Got Back." This was followed by a quick and unintelligible introduction to the panel of judges who would be determining the top three acts of the night. A few other acts came and went, and then the Dance Team Rejects (Bridget Newman, Casey Wagner, and Heather

The Sextones, to fill time in between a few acts and as the scores were tallied. The acts actually worth watching were so few and far between that had I not been obligated to stay, I would not have been missing anything by leaving. For me, the only consolation for the hour that I gave up to attend this disappointing event was that the two groups whom I felt deserved recognition were acknowledged by the judges and actually placed. The time and effort SUB put into the planning of this event should be acknowledged, and they should not be held responsible for the way the event turned out. Next time SUB plans an event like this, I hope that the students who take part will show better taste than that which was displayed this time.

The Softball Team Makes Freshmen Adjustments

Allison Segarra
Reporter

The Saint Joseph's College softball team has nineteen players, eight of which are freshman. Adjusting to college life is not easy with tough classes, different schedules, roommates, and of course being away from home. Add practices, conditioning, and games right off the bat and just about anyone would have a hard time managing it all. Freshman pitcher Ashley Matson said that the main differences from high school ball and college ball are that "Conditioning is a more important factor" and that it is a different level of competition.

Coach Frank Wilkins commented on the differences as well. He said that the speed of the game is a lot faster in college ball.

Most of the players are used to playing a certain position, but sometimes adjustments need to be made. Freshman Shelly Hammons had never played in the outfield until this year when she was assigned to left field. She has always been a catcher and said that the change was "strange at first," but she doesn't mind because she loves the game so much that she is happy just playing in general.

Upperclassmen catcher Michelle Ellis said that the freshman really proved themselves during the fall season. Hammons leads the team with a .500 batting average. Kerrie Schludecker and Katie Locoangeli did a great job at shortstop and second base as well as hitting. Bobbi Pietz had a great tournament at Orland Park, Illinois. Ashley Pryor really stepped up while filling in for catcher Ellis. Nicole Fetla had some great at bats and showed a lot of power.

So, how do these freshman mesh with the upperclassmen? Coach Wilkins says that, "The only person the upperclass would have a hard time meshing with would be the infamous Cub fan!" Hammons admitted that she was "A little nervous about the upperclassmen at first," but she feels very welcomed by them now. She said that they are all very supportive. Matson said, "We all share a common goal, we are always there for each other and we are not afraid of asking questions."

All of the players agree that it seems as though they have been playing together forever. "We are like a family on and off the field," commented Hammons. Junior Merissa "Fire" Kapelinski thinks that the freshman are a "big asset to the team." Junior Ellis believes that they are a very talented, hardworking, and outgoing group. "They all add their own special touch to the team."

Football: A Search for Pride and Answers

Elizabeth Klocek
Reporter

Pumas of the Gridiron . . . let me say that I only ask one more win of you this season, but I fully support surpassing that goal. By the time this is published you may have already made my dreams come true, and if so, I thank you.

I love coming out to watch the team even if there are gale force winds, which occurred at Homecoming, even if I get sunburned down the entire right side of my body, and even if we lose, it matters not. To me coming out to watch the team is enjoyable, and as corny as it sounds, I have pride in good old SJC. I enjoy hearing the band play the fight song, and watching the cheerleaders do their best to get the students and parents involved. Unfortunately, I see few student-fans other than those required to be there (the players, the band, the cheerleaders), and that saddens me a little. In high school the students dominated one section of the bleachers, decked out in the school colors, standing for the entire game, cheering and singing along as the band played and the team scored. I miss those days, or rather I miss that show

of pride. Our football team was the one thing we had as a little Catholic school; every Friday night when the team was at home, the students were joined by alums and townspeople in rooting for the home team. And besides those in the stands illustrating their pride, our players exhibited their pride and professionalism on the sidelines. Our players were dressed as professionals whether they could play or not, khakis with the jersey tucked in and they were down there on the sidelines focused on the field. It's not to say that made us better team, it didn't, we were pretty good at blowing things when it came down to the wire. But we still had that pride, I still have that pride, and it made me curious to see if that high school enthusiasm had carried over not only for some of our players, but the fans as well.

In my hunt for pride and spirit I began with our newest Pumas, the freshmen football players. What did they think playing for SJC would be like, what was their impression of the team before they arrived? What do they think now that the season is winding down? Josh Adams had been told that the recruiting class was pretty good, and though we had had a lot of bad seasons we had a lot of young guys to work with. Now that he is here, Adams says he has

Athlete of the Issue: Walter Mannino



Major: Mass Communications
Minor: Social Work
Favorites
Movie: 'The Goonies'
Book: Lord Of The Flies
T.V. Show: The Simpsons
Food: Ravioli
Song: 'Why Don't You and I' by Carlos Santana and Chad Kroeger
Band: Matchbox 20
Class: Intro. To Mass Com.
Professor: Prof. Nguyen

Sarah Bozenda
Reporter

People say that having others who believe in you and want you to excel is a big part of playing to your potential. Freshman tennis player Walter Mannino holds that statement true to his heart. Two who truly believe in Walter are his mother and his aunt. He started playing tennis around the age of

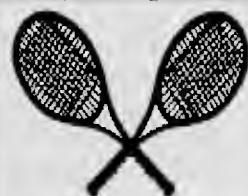
three at a park in the city of Chicago. His aunt wanted him to play a sport that he could play for a long time. She and his mother signed him up for programs that enabled him to improve his game. His mother drove him to matches and tournaments so he could gain district and Midwest rankings.

The transition of playing tennis for St. Patrick's High School to playing for St. Joseph's is a big one.

"In high school," said Mannino, "there wasn't as much pressure. In college, the competition is more intense because many of the players come from around the country and the world."

While playing for a point against Huntington College, Mannino ripped the ball at his opponent, who had rushed the net. As he dodged the ball, it hit his hat, knocking it off his head, causing the crowd watching to fall silent. Mannino ended up winning the match 6-2 and 6-3.

Judging by last year's record, Walter thinks that the team can be much improved from last season. He also realizes that an improvement will take both time and patience due to the fact that the team is quite young (of the 10 players, six are freshmen). Of those six freshmen, four are starters. Mannino's record for both doubles and singles is 2-0.



a better understanding of the work ethic in play. Andy McKim, a Rensselaer native with a better idea than most when coming to SJC, McKim commented that he knew we were not the strongest team but he wanted to see if he could make difference. Charlie Scott, unlike McKim, knew very little about Saint Joseph's College, let alone the team, but he had heard this from an SJC coach: we don't have very much, but we want to win. Scott said he went online to check out the SJC website and said he saw a picture of Coach Tom Riva discussing a play with the team, and they seemed very intent and determined, and that was what he was looking for.

Scott was looking for a strict coach, one who would tell you the truth and lead you the right way, and he says he has found that here. Scott also commented that now that he is here, he likes it even more and the team wants to win. Fellow player David Barker, said he noticed that football at this level was more painful and healing time was longer, because you are going up against stronger guys. Tad DeWitt noted one major difference between playing here at Saint Joseph's College as opposed to the high school level: you have to work to get yourself

hopped up to play, whereas in high school the coach was doing it.

Others commented on the team as well. Cheerleader Allison Segarra shared with me that she sees the freshmen having a lot of talent and are stepping up to the challenge. And, she concluded, if they stick around it will benefit the team even more in the coming years, enabling us to become a powerhouse. Finally, sophomore football player Brian Kukulski thought that the team had talent, but putting it together is kind of hard when half the team is freshmen.

Well it seems I am not the only one with faith in the Pumas, but I think it means more coming from the players themselves. They are the ones out there working everyday to win, and hopefully restore some Puma pride among the students. But maybe this is a give-and-take relationship, if the students come out to cheer on the team, and actually cheer along, then maybe the team will put behind them the days of SIU-E 75/St. Joseph's(IN) 0, flashing up on the ticker on ESPN. Either way, I will still be out there clapping and cheering along for the Pumas. Purple and White, Let's Fight!

SPORTS

Polar Opposites: Chick Magnets and TCA Reviving IM Competition

Casey Wagner
Reporter

If you haven't witnessed the intensity of an IM sport this semester, you don't know what you're missing. There are times during the games when teams yell at each other, trying to put "pressure" on the other team. It seemed silly to me, after all it's just a kickball game. Soon I found out just how wrong I was.

After interviewing Mike Wallach of the first place Chick Magnets, and Adam Bartrom of the second place TCA, I realized that IM sports were rather important. Both teams put forth maximum effort, so the games tend to be rather serious and rather intense. The Chick Magnets have prevailed in many of the "IM: One Night Stands" (The games or sports that are only here for a day.) which has increased their points, consequently putting them closer to their ultimate goal

of achieving the IM Cup. As Bartrom put it, "We win sports, they win activities." However, when the numbers are crunched it's the activities that will matter in the long run.

What Aaron Newman is hoping to accomplish this season is to get more people involved while providing a variety of activities for students of all athletic (or non-athletic) abilities. This is done through the IM: One Night Stands, which so far have included Frisbee Golf, and Nintendo. He is now offering a variety of activities at the end of a week of friendly team competition. As far as the "friendly competition" goes, I heard mixed responses to that question.

"Bartrom better watch his backdoor." This was the first comment Wallach had about the matter of IM competition. However, after the real-

ization that his response was not quite suited for the way his team carries themselves, Wallach added, "If those mean meany heads want to pick on nice guys like us, then fine. They are welcome over anytime to discuss things over a popsicle, we keep the competition on the field."

The response from Bartrom was a little more intense: "We get points for winning, they get points for participating. They have NEVER beat us before in 3 years. If IM points are based on Frisbee Golf and Nintendo, they can have the Cup and we'll outfit our closets with T-shirts. Afterall, Pat Smith has been here for 12 years and hasn't won anything. Oh and the name 'Chick Magnets,' couldn't be farther from the truth." This quote seems to show the true intensity that drives the teams to compete, with hopes of winning on the horizon.



**Chick Magnets
(LEFT)**



**TCA
(RIGHT)**

Tennis: Looking for the Winning Combination

Sarah Bozenda
Reporter

As her season winds down, sophomore Christie VanEyk learns that confidence is key in winning. By gaining that confidence, she feels that she has made great strides in a very positive direction. Along those lines, Ryan Hendrickson, sophomore, thinks that outside motivation plays a big part in an athlete's performance. Hendrickson believes that the teams, both male and female, would play better if people actually came out to support them, watching the entire team, not just the top 2 or 3 players.

Junior Melissa Bachani sees Coach Donn Gobbie as a good coach who knows his stuff, but isn't the best at conveying his knowledge. VanEyk sees him as an adequate coach, considering that he has two teams to work with this year instead of just one. On the other hand, however, Hendrickson remarks that Gobbie works more with the players in the top spots instead of working with everyone.

When asked how the team will do this season, Senior Tom Ruth thinks that they have what it takes to make it to conference tournaments. Ruth and Eric Johanning, sophomore, both agree that the quality of the players is quite

high. Johanning adds that the players are not only better, but have more depth.

"Our team is still in the process of growing into what might possibly be a really good program," commented VanEyk.

Although freshman Walter Mannino and Ruth are ranked 1-2, Mannino gives credit to freshmen John Simon, Dru Kitchell and sophomore Kyle Marburger, stating, "Those are the guys that will win matches for us."

Lend your support to the Puma men as they take on the Boilermakers at Purdue Saturday the 25th.

A Great Sports Quote

If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base.

--Dave Barry, Columnist, Miami Herald

If you are interested in writing for the sports pages contact Bridget Newman at bnh3998@saintjoe.edu

Gain job-related experience!

Create material for your portfolio!

You have opportunity for advancement!

You will have fun!

Upcoming Puma Games



Women's Tennis

November 8
Away, 10:00am
Tennessee State

Men's Tennis

October 25
Away, TBA
Purdue JV

November 8
Away, 10:00am
Tennessee Away

Cross-Country

October 25
@ Lewis University
GLVC Championships

Good luck at the
Championships
Cross-Country!

November 8
@ Grand Valley State
Great Lakes Regional

Volleyball

October 24
Away, 7:00pm
Missouri-St. Louis

October 25
Away, 1:00pm
SIU Edwardsville

Women's Soccer

October 24
Away, 3:00pm
Tampa

October 25
Away, 11:00am
Eckerd University

Congratulations to the
Women's Soccer team on a
winning conference sea-
son!

Men's Soccer

October 24
Away, 7:00pm
Missouri-St. Louis

October 25
Away, 1:00pm
Eckerd University

Football

October 25
Away, 12:00pm
Tiffin University

Madame Sandra's Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Romance is on your mind, and very soon you may meet someone who will have a great influence on your life. Be receptive to everyone, and you may meet someone who will offer you an interesting proposition.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your concentration has not been very good lately, and you have been feeling quite unproductive. Remember to stay focused, and don't be afraid to ask others for help. A friend could be your best motivation.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Your skills and talents seem to cover a broad range of subjects, which will prove to be highly valuable to you in the near future. Something that may seem difficult at first may best be solved by using a skill from a different area.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Have you noticed recently that many of your friends seem stressed out and overwhelmed? Your support is vital right now, so invite them over for an evening of relaxation and encouragement.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Remember to think long and hard before promising your friends something that you may have difficulty carrying through. Your friends will appreciate you more for your honesty than for false promises.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Nothing seems to be going right! Your life seems to be uncontrollable right now, and the best way to deal with it is to deal with things one at a time. Start with your personal life, and work your way up from there.

Upcoming Holidays

- 23 Festival of Forgotten Gods
- National Boston Cream Pie Day
- Departure of the Swallows (San Juan Capistrano, US)
- 24 United Nations Day World Development Information Day (UN)
- 25 Diwali
- Feast of Forty Martyrs of England and Wales
- St. Crispin's Day (England)
- 26 French Food Festival
- Exaltation of the Shellfish (Spain)
- 27 Ramadan
- National Potato Day
- 28 National Chocolate Day
- 29 Oatmeal Day
- 30 Buy-A-Doughnut Day
- 31 Halloween
- Samhain
- Beggar's Night
- Apple & Candle Night (Wales)
- National Caramel Apple Day

Courtesy of www.web-holidays.com

ATTENTION STUDENTS:
Do you have an original poem, short story, comic, or any other creative expression that you would like to see printed on the Et Cetera page of The Observer? Please contact Sandra at swh4014@saintjoe.edu for information or to submit your work.

Libra (September 23-October 23)

Attending a social event could be very beneficial right now. Someone you meet at a social function could turn into a romantic interest or just a new friend. Either way, you won't regret this newfound companionship.

Scorpio (October 24-November 21)

If someone questions your beliefs or opinions, stand strong and do not falter. You may be inclined to disregard your beliefs for the sake of peace, but this will cause conflict in the future. Be proud of who you are!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Be careful about how you interact in your relationships. By interrogating or second-guessing those close to you, you may come off as arrogant and cause a rift in those friendships. Keep in mind how others hear your words.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

It's important to keep your heart distinct from your head. Acting on your emotions may have devastating effects on your life, so try to involve your brain as much as possible. Your logic knows what is best, so listen carefully.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

You have been feeling very competitive recently, and for a good reason. You have had a lot of good luck, but remember that luck is fleeting. Once your luck is gone you will have to rely on your skills, so don't neglect them.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Giving advice to a friend may be beneficial right now, as you have the ability to open his/her eyes to something he/she may not have seen before. But be careful whose affairs you meddle in, as he/she may soon meddle in yours.

How Witty are You?

How many of these riddles can you solve? Answers below.

1. A 6-foot tall Magician had a water glass and was holding the glass above his head. He let it drop to the carpet without spilling a single drop of water. How could he manage to drop the glass from a height of six feet and not spill a drop of water?

2. A babysitter came over one day to babysit 10 children. She decided to give them a snack. In a jar there were 10 cookies. She wants to give each one a cookie, but still keep one in the jar. How will she do it? (without breaking any cookies; each child has to get a whole).

3. A bus driver was heading down a street in Colorado. He went right past a stop sign without stopping, he turned left where there was a "no left turn" sign, and he went the wrong way on a one-way street. Then he went on the left side of the road past a cop car.

Still - he didn't break any traffic laws. Why not?

4. A black dog stands in the middle of an intersection in a town painted black. None of the street lights are working due to a power failure caused by a storm. A car with two broken headlights drives towards the dog but turns in time to avoid hitting him. How could the driver have seen the dog in time?

5. A girl is twice as old as her brother and half as old as her father. In 22 years, her brother will be half as old as his father. How old is the daughter now?

years old.
wallking...not driving. 4) It was day light. 5) 22
child the jar with one cookie left in it. 3) He was
1) The glass is empty! 2) She hands the 10th

Courtesy www.puzz.com

Featured Writer: Stacy Claussen

My Mother-In-Law and the Alien Drag Queens

My mother-in-law is obsessive compulsive, and a pack rat. She drives me crazy because I am just the opposite, where she keeps everything I give everything away.

I will start with the closet in her bedroom, which is the size of a small third-world country. The clothes date back to the 1960's, and the shoes are all in their original boxes. Too bad, she was never fashion savvy, because if the shoes were designer, I would sell them on e-bay after she's dead. I'll probably do that anyway.

After her two sons moved out, she started to fill the closets in their old bedrooms, and currently only uses the clothes that reside in the third closet she has filled.

Sometimes I just want to ask her, don't you know where the goodwill store is? Doesn't she realize that if you pull up to the goodwill drop off, which is protected by an overhang in case of rain, some sweet Mexican men come out and unload your car for you? Last time I dropped off the residue of a joint yard sale I was involved in, I gave those men a tip I was so happy to unload all that crap.

I think she is this way because of a dirt-poor upbringing, or a fear of an alien abduction. Yes, I believe it is a fear of an alien abduction. She envisions a saucer-style spaceship wrapped in pink and green neon lights landing on her front lawn. When the aliens emerge, dressed like seventies drag-queens, they will demand, "We are going to take you to our galaxy, and you will be in bad shape if you don't bring forty years worth of clothes and shoes!"

SJC Poet's Corner

for all sleepwalkers...

i command you to wake up,
for i have seen your dreams.
through a kaleidoscope, it hides...
the hope of us one day being free at the
same time.
desperation, i was able to tame mine,
yet, i still see the sorrow in your smile.
it hurts me, too, and you know
the way our laughs fade out the same.
then, awkward silence forces us to
show.
stream of consciousness distorted
with thoughts of innocent misdeeds
and we're still reaching up
to clutch a branch off one of freedom's
trees
continuing to heighten,
reared from revolutionary seeds, and
bearing fruit that will never ripen.
believing in fables,
contently cradled in affirmative actions
arm.
a life riddled with remnant regrets,
and from a million miles way,
i feel your pain
like mama staying silent when i say i
love you.
adopted child blues
hurts like new pointy-toed leather
shoes,
worn on Easter Sunday's by children
who one day will fumble through
mistakes their parents made
battered because genetics gave inherent
contributions.

slapped with a generation gap
as extension cords were used
as the solution for bad judgment,
i heard someone say,
there's too many folks sleepwalking,
dreaming about some middleclass,
slice of the American pie type shit,
and poets can't seem to convey loud
enough
to wake your ignorant minds up.

-Melissa Alba

the fire light (the red flower)

from stars that bear their passion lit
so to the sun 'tis brought aloft
the light strains over her eyes' rims
and burns in a circle aloft.

and from her gaze she holds so soft
that swerves and fades in ever-drift
alights my heart, inferno-draught
as pass's so now, from it to it.

-Chris Repp

Two Words

Everytime I think of my love for you I
get a chill,
And am almost blown away by the
vastness of it all
The universe seems to pale in compari-
son.
It surpasses all, and it will always be
that way.

I cannot wait until the next time I can
hold you in my arms,
and lose myself in your love for me.
But when that time is gone,
I will always think of you and your
warm embrace until the next comes.

I love staring into your deep gaze,
going so deep as to not remember my
own name and not to care,
until I am brought back to my senses
when I hear you tell me you love me.
Then all of the memories we share
come rushing back to me,
And I experience a feeling that only
two words can express.....

-Sarah Bozenda

Want to see your poetry in print? Submit your original work of poetry
to Sandra Wood at [swh4014@saintjoe.edu!!](mailto:swh4014@saintjoe.edu)